



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Director of Health Services
Director of Mental Health
Chief, Office of Public Safety

At its meeting held November 8, 2005, the Board took the following action:

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The following statement was entered into the record for Supervisor Burke:

“The Department of Mental Health is implementing a transformation of the mental health services delivery system and developing new approaches in outpatient settings that include innovative approaches such as Urgent Care and Wellness Centers. The complexity and range of services, provided in non-traditional settings, will present new challenges to ensuring the safety of clients and staff. Since DMH staff work closely with the Office of Public Safety to ensure that mental health services are provided in an environment that is safe for clients, their family members, staff and others in clinical settings, it is critical that coordinated and comprehensive procedures are developed to guide clinicians and safety police so that a safe environment is maintained to provide care in all mental health settings.”

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Therefore, at the suggestion of Supervisor Burke and on motion of Supervisor Yaroslavsky, seconded by Supervisor Antonovich, unanimously carried (Supervisor Knabe being absent), the Board took the following actions:

1. Instructed the Director of Mental Health and the Chief, Office of Public Safety to develop joint policies and procedures to ensure a safe environment for the provision of mental health services, and to take the following actions:
 - Require all County Police Officers working in mental health facilities to receive training regarding safe practices in mental health facilities, to be modeled on the training provided by the Department of Mental Health for the Los Angeles Police Department, including techniques in non-violent crisis intervention that would prevent clients' escalation to avoid threatening situations, and the management of assaultive behavior, on the rare occasion that such intervention is necessary; and
 - Report back within 30 days on the progress of the collaborative plan of training and the development of procedures that are consistent among the Department of Mental Health programs and facilities where the Office of Public Safety maintains a presence; and
2. Instructed the Director of Health Services to review and recommend training for the Sheriff's Department personnel working within the mental health ward at Twin Towers.

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